THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Election Commission has informed that one Engineer from Chennai has claimed that he can prove that electronic voting machines can be manipulated.

(b) The Election Commission afforded the said Engineer opportunity to prove his claim to the Commission in the presence of technical experts from the two manufacturing companies *viz.* M/s Electronics Corporation of India Limited and M/s Bharat Electronics Limited but he did not respond to the offer.

Implementation of court orders

1108. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to issue clear instruction to the State Governments to make sure that the rule of law prevails and court orders are implemented in letter and spirit;

(b) whether Government are aware that decision of the Allahabad High Court on Writ Petition No. 2757 of 1995 has not been implemented by Uttaranchal Government making a mockery of the judicial process;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to ensure that legal propriety is maintained and strict action is taken against the officials responsible for such inaction; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (d) The wilful disobedience of any judgement, decree, direction, order, writ or other process of a court or wilful breach of an undertaking given to a court constitutes a contempt of court under the provisions of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971. Further, under article 215 of the Constitution of India, every High Court shall be a court of record and shall have all the powers of such a court including the power to punish for contempt of itself.

The aforesaid statutory provisions are binding on every body including Central Government, State Governments and all local or other authorities

with in the territory of India and they are duty bound to obey the court judgement/orders.

Special Identity Cards for physically handicapped

1109. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Special Identity Cards have been issued for the physically challenged people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such cards distributed so far; and

(d) the steps Government are taking to help the physically handicapped people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) Guidelines were circulated in August, 2000 for adoption by the State Governments/UT Administrations for issue of Identity Cards to Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). The actual issue of Identity Cards comes within the purview of State Governments/UT Administrations and therefore, all information regarding the Identity Cards is available with the State Governments/UT Administrations.

(d) Steps Government is taking to help physically handicapped people are:-

1) Grant in aid assistance is released to voluntary organizations for running special education and vocational training programmes, placement services, shelter workshops, home based services, etc.

2) Scheme of assistance of disabled persons for purchase and fitting of aids and appliances (ADIP).

3) National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) provides loans on soft terms through State Channalising Agencies to persons with disability for self-employment and income generating activities.

4) There are six National/Apex Institutes under the aegis of the Ministry